

NASA's Science Mission Directorate (SMD) is seeking up to five experienced scientists to fill visiting scientist positions within the Astrophysics Division, NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC. These positions are normally filled for two years, extendible to six years, by individuals on leave from their home institution. Positions are available in the following science areas: 1) physics of the cosmos (exploring the fundamental physics of the universe and the extremes of space-time); 2) cosmic origins (the origins and evolution of stars, galaxies, and cosmic structure); and 3) exoplanet exploration (the search for and characterization of extra-solar planetary systems and potentially habitable environments around other stars).

Visiting scientists participate in the planning, development and management of NASA missions and in the management of the astrophysics grants program. They serve as Discipline Scientists to develop research solicitations, conduct scientific peer reviews, and recommend highly rated proposals for selection, serve as Program Scientists for NASA space missions, and participate in the selection of Explorer missions. Visiting scientists play a leadership role in developing budgets, program plans, designing and participating in E/PO activities, and long range strategic plans to define the future NASA astrophysics program. They can make a difference in the execution of the overall SMD science mission and are expected to demonstrate a high degree of initiative in doing so.

Applicants must have a Ph.D. or equivalent in astronomy or physics plus relevant experience in instrumental, observational and/or theoretical research. Applicants should be familiar with the U.S. grants programs and possess an ability to communicate effectively with the scientific community, educators, and the media. Positions are available beginning March 2008, though the starting date is negotiable. Expressions of interest should be forwarded to Sheila Gorham, Suite 3W39, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Washington, DC 20546; sgorham@nasa.gov; 202-358-0032.